Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0008] on page 3 of the specification as follows:

-- [0008]   The present invention provides a number of advantages, including enabling equipment in a network to be conveniently rearranged, added or removed as desired. In addition, the present invention enables easier servicing of network communication ~~busses~~ buses since they do not have to be bundled together. The present invention also lowers cost and increases reliability since network equipment may be provided with a simple, universal network interface arrangement. --

Please amend paragraph [0013] on pages 3-4 of the specification as follows:

-- [0013]   A system 18 and method for providing network access in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in FIGS. 2-3. System 18 includes controller 22(1) coupled to hub server 12 by way of buses 24(1)-24(4) and controller 22(n) coupled to controlled 22(1) by way of buses 25(1)-25(4). Controllers 22(1)-22(n) are coupled to devices 14(1)-14(n) by way of controlled interfaces 30(1)-30(n), respectively. Controller interfaces 30(1)-30(n) enable devices 14(1)-14(7) 14(1)-14(n) to communicate with controlled 22(1)-22(n) as described further herein. The present invention provides a number of advantages, including enabling devices 14(1)-14(n) to be conveniently rearranged, added or removed as desired in system 18. In addition, the present invention enables buses 24(1)-24(4) and 25(1)-25(4) to be more easily serviced, while increasing the reliability of system 18. --

Please amend paragraph [0016] on page 5 of the specification as follows:

-- [0016]   In this embodiment, controller 22(n) is the same as controller 22(1) except that it instead receives buses 25(1)-25(4) through inputs 28(1)-28(4), the buses 25(1)-25(4) originating from the outputs 27(1)-27(4) of controller 22(1). <u>Accordingly, controller 22(1) may include controller connections 38, for example.</u> Additionally, while only controllers 22(1)-22(n) are shown, system 18 may also include controllers 22(2)-22(3), for example. Controllers 22(2)-22(3) in this example are the same as controller 22(n), each including inputs where buses from a preceding example are the same as controller 22(n), each including inputs where buses from a preceding controller are coupled to, and outputs where the buses that continue on to a next controller are coupled to. Additionally, while controller 22(1)-22(n) are shown herein as being coupled to each other by buses, they may also be coupled directly to each other. --

Please amend paragraph [0022] on page 7 of the specification as follows:

-- [0022]   Next at step 42, controller 22(1) detects the presence of a link pulse in bus 24(1). In this example, controller 22(1) then establishes a network connection 32 to controller interface 30(1) through device connection 33(1) by engaging and operating the appropriate switches and circuitry within controller 22(1). Once the network connection 32 is established, controller interface may begin receiving network signals and provide them to device 14(1) through device connection 33(1). Controller 22(1) may then cause the LED light mentioned above to illuminate for indicating that device 14(1) is communication with hub server 12 using bus 24(1). --

Please amend paragraph [0028] on page 10 of the specification as follows:

-- [0028]   Referring more specifically to FIG. 4, network interface 52(1) includes inputs 58(1)-58(4). Buses 24(1)-24(4), originating from ports 13(1)-13(4) of hub server 12, are coupled to inputs 58(1)-58(4). Network interface 52(1) may include a fewer or greater number of inputs 58(1)-58(4), and the number may or may not depend upon the number of ports 13(1)-13(4) there are in hub server 12. Network interface 52(1) includes circuit paths 56(1)-56(4), which are coupled to inputs 58(1)-58(4) and outputs ~~59(1)-59(4)~~ 59(1)-59(3). In this embodiment, network interface 52(1) does not require any additional switches, circuitry or processors except as described further herein below. --